

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the exact amount which the Coffee Board is required to pay to the Government of Karnataka.

I would also ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry will request the Karnataka Government to write off the purchase tax keeping in view the grave financial crisis of the Coffee Board.

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** Sir, the Coffee Board has already remitted a sum of Rs. 24.53 crores towards the purchase tax to Karnataka Government. They will have to pay another Rs. 24.53 crores in equal instalments. This matter has been taken up by us with the Karnataka Government.

**SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA :** Is it a fact that the Coffee Board does not have a chairman for over one year? When is the decision likely to be taken in view of the fact that problems of the coffee growers can be handled effectively only when the chairman is there?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** We hope to have a chairman soon.

**SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :** During the last session, an assurance was given on the floor of this House that the chairman would be appointed by the end of the session. It is now nearly three months but the chairman has not been appointed. The enormous losses of the Coffee Board are due to the fact that there is no proper organisation. (*Interruptions*) Will the Minister assure us that the chairman will be appointed by the end of this month?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** We will see to it soon.

**SHRI D.P. JADEJA :** Sir, India's share in the export of coffee is hardly one per cent compared to the export situation all over the world. The main reason for India not being able to export is because of the purchase tax and secondly this is one commodity on which the Central Government also levies an export duty. To increase the export of coffee, will the hon. Minister assure us that they will consider these two points, that is, the abolition of purchase tax and the abolition of export duty on coffee,

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** The purchase tax is not in our hands. It has been levied by the Government of Karnataka. So far as the cess is concerned, we shall bear in mind the suggestion made by the hon. Member but may I say that this is not an impediment to the export of coffee? Export of coffee is governed by a quota that has been given to us.

#### Increase in Salinity

\*44. **SHRI D.B. PATIL :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether salinity in land is on the increase all over the country because of over-utilisation of water;

(b) if so, the efforts made to desalinate such land, amount earmarked and amount spent thereon during 1987-88; State-wise; and

(c) which States are worst affected in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :**

(a) The problem of salinity has been experienced in some parts of the country.

(b) The remedial measures taken include leaching of affected soils and adding drainage facilities and lining of canals in command areas. These generally form components of different programmes implemented by the States for which separate accounts are not maintained.

(c) Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra and Haryana.

**SHRI D.B. PATIL :** From the reply that has been given by the Government, it appears that the Government is not serious about the enormity of the problem of salinity in land which is caused by water logging and over-utilisation of water as well as over withdrawal of ground water. It also reflects the callous and cavalier attitude of the Government about the salinity because according to the recent study, it has been observed that about ten million hectares of cultivated land is water-logged. 25 million hectares of cultivated land is affected by salinity and 36

per cent of canal irrigated area may go out of cultivation due to water-logging and salinity or both. These are the findings of the study made by some experts. It seems that the Government is not serious about the problem. Salinity is caused because of over-utilisation of surface water and over-drawing of underground water. I have quoted the figures from the recent findings also. If you compare these figures with the total irrigation potential, then it will be clear how serious the problem is. At the end of the Sixth Plan, the total potential of about 67.5 million hectares was created from major, medium and minor irrigation. It means that more than 50 per cent of the land which is cultivated under irrigation is being turned into uncultivated because of this salinity. What is the Government doing in this matter ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** It would not be wholly correct to say what the Hon. Member said that the salinity in the country is entirely on account of over-utilisation of water. As I have said in my reply, we have been experiencing the problem of salinity in certain irrigated command areas and this is because of the development of irrigation facilities without adequate drainage arrangement and improper water management practice and congestion in drainage which leads to salinity problem. What the hon. Member has referred to the figures about the saline affected land, I agree to it but it is not entirely on account of irrigation.

**SHRI D.B. PATIL :** It is a matter of common knowledge that rich farmers over-utilise the water sometimes by stealing water from the canal. There are thefts of water in many States. Even when there are complaints of large scale about theft of water, Government is not taking serious action because of the influence of the rich farmers on the State Governments. Water is scarce in our country for irrigation and drinking purposes. Certain sections of the farmers utilize water more than their share. Will the Government think of distributing the water equitably, if not equally, to the farmers so that over-utilization of water is not there and problems of salinity and other problems are avoided ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** The supplementary of the hon. Member is remotely connected with the main question. Still I venture to answer it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is a very valid and good point, I think.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** The hon. Member has mentioned about the over-utilization of water by stealing it. I agree that equitable distribution of water is, of course necessary. But economical usage of water, optimal utilization of water is necessary and which could be achieved mainly by water cooperative methods by farmers.

**MR. SPEAKER :** We have to introduce better ways to utilize the water, minimum use of water for the maximum benefit.

[Translation]

**SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAM-BHAI PATEL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I know what the Government proposes to do about the increasing salinity of underground water in Gujarat ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** How is the Government going to control the increasing salinity ?

[English]

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** In certain areas of the country, specifically the irrigated areas, where the ground water level is rising, there is a danger of the soil being affected by salinity and conjunctive use of water is the only method of controlling it.

[Translation]

**PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI :** May I know from the hon. Minister how many hectares of land in Bihar has been affected by salinity due to over-utilisation of water ?

[English]

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** I have the figures with me about the area occupied by salt-affected soil, and according to the list with me, the area occupied by salt affected soil in Bihar is 0.04 lakh hectares and the percentage of this to the total cultivable area is 0.03 per cent.

[Translation]

**SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that Rajasthan too has a large area, particularly in Jhujhunu

and Sikar, which is occupied by salt affected water. How is the Government going to de-salinize this water? Will Jhunjhunu and Sikar get the benefit of Yamuna Canal? This issue is already under the consideration of the Government.

[English]

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND** : All that I can say is that this is a suggestion for action.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Do take action.

**Surplus Labour in NTC Mills**

\*46. **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA** : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any surplus workers in National Textile Corporation mills all over the country; and

(b) if so, the number thereof and the steps taken by the National Textile Corporation authority to absorb them usefully?

**THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA)** : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to a study undertaken in NTC mills 29,859 workers have been identified as surplus. NTC have no plans to absorb this excess labour force.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA** : Sir, when the new Textile Policy was announced we predicted correctly the fate of the entire Textile industry of our country. In his reply the Hon. Minister has admitted that in NTC mills about 30,000 workers have become surplus and in other organised textile mills more than 80,000 workers have become surplus due to the faulty National Textile Policy. Sir, altogether at present 1,10,000 workers in organised mills including NTC have become surplus. This is a very grave situation. But how these workers have become surplus?

Sir, before nationalisation there is no reason to believe that the private management recruited surplus workers in their mills.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Put the question.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA** : I am putting the question. The shortage of working capital, indifferent attitude of different nationalised banks and other financial

institution, mis-management, corruption, problems of marketing, all this has resulted in the sorry state of affair in the National Textile mills.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Are you putting some question or stating some facts here.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA** : I am coming to it, Sir. All the burden has been shifted to the poor workers. All the trade unions including INTUC have protested against this. I am making an alternative proposal.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Do not make proposal, put the question.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA** : I will ask the Hon. Minister to consider my proposal. Whether the Government will consider the proposal of absorbing the so called excess man-power by expanding the activities of the NTC mills, by providing necessary working capital, by establishing corruption free proper management and ensuring sufficient orders?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA** : When I say that 29,859 workers have been identified as surplus, it does not mean that they are out of jobs. They are working in the NTC mills. They have not been retrenched. They are being paid wages in normal way. But according to certain norms of running a mill in a proper way, this staff is surplus and if this staff is reduced, our profit would increase. So, the first thing I want to say is that they are not out of job; they are working with us. They have been identified as surplus and we have certain schemes which we are implementing in consultation with the trade unions about rationalisation and we are giving them benefits of premature retirement or things of that nature.

The Hon. Member wants to know if the Government can improve the working capital investment. The main problem why these mills since nationalisation have not been able to work properly, efficiently and profitably is that when they were taken over, they were very old and they had antiquated machinery. That was the reason why the previous management failed and we took them over for running them in a proper way to save employment. But the amount of investment that was necessary, and which even now is necessary to rehabilitate these 124 and odd mills, is a staggering figure